

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies therein in order to reduce the filing fee.

In view of the foregoing, early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 *Reg. No. 41498*

D. Douglas Price
Reg. No. 24,514

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 429-3000